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HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



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ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1965

HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T S

O F T H E

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

A N D T H E

C H I E F P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R

F O R T H E Y E A R 1965

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HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1965 - 1966

COUNCILLORS:

Chairman of the Council

M. MUIR, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council

G.F. HENDRY

J.F. Osborne - (Chairman of the Public Health Committee)

B.W. Davis

A.R.G. Price, J.P.

P.S. Drury

J. Reilly

W.H. Gates

P.I. Robbins

J.H. Goldsmith

S.W. Robbins

G.J. Graves

R.J. Watts

A.E. Hussey

Mrs. B.F. Wearmouth

W. WILSON, F.C.C.S.

Clerk of the Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1965

Medical Officer of Health

VICTOR R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

(Also Divisional M.O. for North Herts.)

Chief Public Health Inspector:

NORMAN HOLT, F.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,

Certs. R.S. Health (1. Meat and Foods. 2. Smoke)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

HARRY FORREST, M.A.P.H.I.

Certs. R.S. Health (Meat and Foods)

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

ANTHONY MORGAN, M.A.P.H.I.

Certs. R.S. Health (1. Meat and Foods. 2. Smoke)

DAVID HOWARD RATLIFF

Certs. R.S. Health (1. Meat and Foods. 2. Smoke)

ERIC BENNETT (From 8.3.65.)

Certs. R.S. Health (Meat and Foods)

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

GRAHAM ALBERT WISEMAN

CLERICAL STAFF:

MR. J. D. DAVIDSON

MRS. E. M. McLEOD

OFFICES

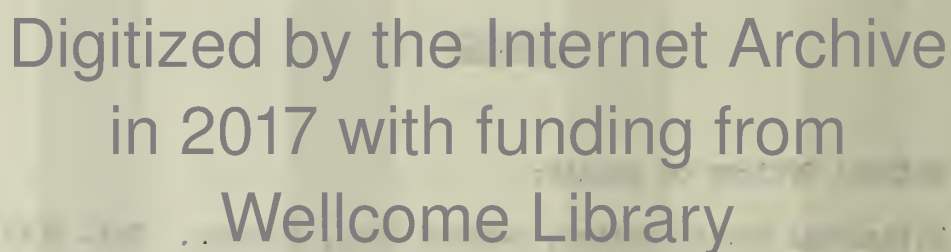
Medical Officer of Health:

Divisional Health Office, Bedford Road, Hitchin. Tel. 50411/4

Chief Public Health Inspector:

Council Offices, Brand Street, Hitchin. Tel. 4471/5

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HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1965

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mrs. Wearmouth and Gentlemen,

I submit the above annual report on the direction of Ministry Circular 1/66.

For the year 1965 the local death rate (11.6) just exceeds the figure for England and Wales (11.5). Such higher death rate would again seem due to the presence in the local population of a considerable higher than average proportion of elderly age groups. Application of the comparability factor supplied produces a local 'standardised' death rate of 8.5 and the tabulation of local deaths show 53% to have occurred at ages 75 years and over.

The local birth rate (21.2) again exceeds the national rate (18.1); a considerable factor in such higher rate is the recent considerably increased immigrant population. Local stillbirth and infant mortality rates both compare very favourably with corresponding national rates.

During the year there is again seen to have been no local occurrence of serious infectious disease, apart from a measles epidemic.

I would acknowledge having received during the year every assistance from your Council and its chief officers; particularly from Mr. Holt, your Chief Public Health Inspector, who is responsible for the attached report on sanitary matters.

Your obedient servant,

V. R. WALKER.

District Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1966.

SECTION ALOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	3,850
Home Population - Registrar General's estimate for mid-1965	25,330
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1966	8,392
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1966	£1,434,809
Estimated Product of a Penny Rate for 1966/67	£6,000

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FORTHE YEAR 1965

<u>HITCHIN</u>	<u>Comparable</u>
<u>URBAN</u>	<u>Rate for</u>
<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>ENGLAND</u>
	<u>AND WALES.</u>

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	487	246	241
Illegitimate	50	27	23
	<hr/> 537	<hr/> 273	<hr/> 264

Rate per 1,000 population	21.2	18.1
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	9.2%	

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	5	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 3

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	9.2	15.7
--	-----	------

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS.

HITCHIN Comparabl
URBAN Rate for
DISTRICT ENGLAND
 AND WALES

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
542	275	267

DEATHS.

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
294	132	162

Rate per 1,000 population

11.6

11.5

INFANT DEATHS.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Under 1 week	7	3	4
1 - 4 weeks	-	-	-
4 - 52 weeks	1	-	1
	8	3	5

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births.

14.9

19.0

Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births.

11.2

Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births.

40.0

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate

(deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)

13.1

13.0

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate

(deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)

13.1

<u>HITCHIN</u>	<u>Comparable</u>
<u>URBAN</u>	<u>Rate for</u>
<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>ENGLAND</u>
	<u>AND WALES.</u>

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) 22.1

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)
 Number of deaths None
 Rate per 1,000 total live and still births. 0.0 0.25

COMMENT ON LOCAL VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated local mid-year population shows a further considerable rise of 340 while local live births (537) are just 7 below the record figure for the previous year.

Deaths from Cancer (all sites) numbered 46, of which total 12 were from Cancer of the lung or bronchus. Five deaths (4 males and 1 female) among local residents occurred from motor vehicle accidents, against totals of 4 for 1964 and 5 for 1963.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

These are unchanged.

SECTIONS C - E.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA, HOUSING AND INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

Full reports on the above are contained in the attached report of your Chief Public Health Inspector.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Total notifications of acute infectious diseases received during the year numbered (after corrections):-

Measles 416, Scarlet Faver 6, Whooping Cough 4, Acute Encephalitis 1, and Paratyphoid Fever 1.

Notifications of puerperal pyrexia (rise of temperature during lying-in period) numbered 17, scattered over 4 quarters.

Apart from the heavy local epidemic of measles in the late Spring and early Summer the local incidence of infectious diseases is seen to have been small and unimportant.

The one notification of paratyphoid fever concerned a resident recently returned from the Continent; there was no local report of food poisoning during the year.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Against smallpox, efforts continue directed towards securing primary vaccination of infants during the second year of life. After the fall in vaccinations caused by the change in the recommended age, recorded acceptances in North Herts have now risen to a ratio of nearly 60% of annual live births. Such ratio is of course well below the figure of over 80% for children receiving oral anti-poliomyelitis vaccine or TRIPLE vaccine, both offered in the first year of life.

Combined immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus continues unchanged in the form of three separate injections of TRIPLE vaccine from the age of three months. An additional (fourth) 'booster' dose is delayed to around 18 months. Total returns show an acceptance rate well above 80 per cent. An additional 'booster' dose is offered at the age of infant school entry, omitting the whooping cough fraction which when repeated after such interval is found to cause occasional reactions.

Oral vaccine against poliomyelitis, sandwiched in time between the third and fourth doses of the triple vaccine course, continues to have an equally high acceptance rate. A 'booster' dose is offered of such oral vaccine around time of infant school entry, while a further booster dose is likely to be offered to the susceptible population of an area where any future outbreak should be confirmed.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION (Cont'd.)

Protection against tuberculosis by B.C.G. vaccine continues to be offered to 13 + year old scholars, with an acceptance rate around 80%. Since the commencement of such scheme in 1957 it is of interest that the percentage of positive reactors to the HEAF (tuberculin) Test has fallen steadily from over 18 per cent to 3.5 per cent this last year. In part this is due to the great reduction in the numbers of open (infective) cases of respiratory tuberculosis in the population but the other factor must have been the widespread adoption of pasteurisation of milk over the last 10-20 years. The latter factor is almost certainly responsible for the spectacular decline in the incidence of surgical tuberculosis (of glands, bones and joints), formerly common among children.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and deaths during the Year 1965

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1								
2 - 5								
5 - 15		1						
15 - 25		1						
25 - 35	1							
35 - 45								
45 - 55								
55 - 65	1							
65 & over								
Not known								
TOTALS	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

Comment For the year 1965 local new notifications were confined to four cases (all respiratory). No death from tuberculosis occurred locally during the year.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1965

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mrs. Wearmouth and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my twenty-fourth Annual Report upon the work carried out by the Public Health Department during the year ending 31st December, 1965.

Housing work continues to receive much attention, the department being concerned with the problems raised by multiple occupation, clearance of unfit houses and the making of improvement grants. A survey was made and the first improvement area comprising 281 houses was declared in April 1965. Work on this area continued throughout the year from that date and also the preliminary survey of a proposed second improvement area was almost completed at the end of 1965.

The number of pigs slaughtered at the bacon factory increased slightly by 4,396 to a total figure of 49,349. The slaughterhouse also commenced the small scale slaughter of sheep during the year. 480 of these animals were slaughtered and inspected.

I again express my thanks to the staff for their valuable assistance and to all the Council's officials for their continued co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

N. HOLT.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

April, 1966.

1890

General, 1890

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SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS

AND NOTICES SERVED DURING

THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st 1965

NATURE OF VISIT OR INSPECTION

GENERAL SANITATION

Drainage	480
Pet shops	4
Caravan sites	114
Factories	59
Outworkers	22
Refuse and salvage collection	391
Refuse disposal	170
Rats and mice	50
Smoke observations	11
Boiler plants	13
Shops, offices, etc.	162
Petroleum installations	101
Swimming pools	20
Miscellaneous	797

HOUSING

Under Public Health Acts:-

Number of houses inspected	76
Visits paid to above houses	214

Under Housing Acts:-

Number of houses inspected	11
Visits paid to above houses	254

Overcrowding:-

Number of houses inspected	5
Visits paid to above houses	37

Houses in Multiple Occupation:-

Number of houses inspected	61
Visits paid to above houses	549

Improvement Areas:-

Number of houses inspected	20
Visits paid to above houses	63

Rent Act, 1957:-

Inspection in connection with certificates of disrepair.	1
All revisits	3

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Enquiries in case of infectious disease.	13
Enquiries in case of food poisoning	4
Other visits re food poisoning enquiries	8

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Inspection of meat:-

Visits to slaughterhouses	1002
Visits to shops and stalls	45

Food Inspection:-

Visits to shops and stalls	72
----------------------------	----

Visits to:-

Butchers	76
Fishmongers and poulterers	17
Fish friers	16
Food preparing premises	24
Grocers	138
Greengrocers and fruiterers	39
Dairies and milkshops	13
Ice cream stores	10
Bakehouses	45
Markets	89
Restaurants	45
School and factory canteens etc.	27
Street vendors and hawkers carts	37
Licensed premises	20

Visits in connection with sampling (bacteriological):-

Milk	43
Ice cream	81

NOTICES SERVED

Number of informal notices served	70
Number of informal notices complied with	45
Number of statutory notices served	15
Number of statutory notices complied with	7

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE PUBLIC
HEALTH INSPECTORS.

HOUSES, ETC.

Roofs repaired	32
Chimney stacks pointed or repaired	13
Flashings repaired or replaced	3
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed	28
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	24
Roof timbers repaired or replaced	2
Walls pointed or repaired	11
Windows repaired	15
Windows provided or replaced	6
New window sashcords provided	9
New window fasteners provided	3
Doors replaced (external)	12
Doors repaired (external)	17
Doors provided or replaced (internal)	16
Door fasteners repaired or replaced	16
New yard surfaces provided	3
Yard surfaces relaid or repaired	6
Ceilings where plaster, etc. repaired or replaced	7
Ceilings cleansed	7
Rooms where walls cleansed	1
Floors relaid or repaired	13
Firegrates provided or repaired	2
Chimney flues repaired	1
Staircases repaired	6
Rooms where lighting improved	12
Rooms where ventilation improved	4
Rooms where dampness remedied	19
New sinks provided	15
Sink waste pipes trapped	1
Trapped sink waste pipes provided	8
New washbasins provided	48
Washbasin waste pipes trapped	7
Trapped washbasin waste pipes provided	48
New baths provided	47
Trapped bath waste pipes provided	47

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF
THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS - continued:

HOUSES, ETC.

Rooms where wallplaster etc. repaired	
or replaced	28
Rooms decorated	15
Hot water systems provided	50
Ventilated food stores provided	45

Drainage:-

New drains constructed	15
Old drains reconstructed	17
Drains repaired	6
Drains ventilated	1
Drains cleansed	48
Inspection chambers provided	30
Inspection chamber covers provided	13
Self cleansing gullies provided	13
Soil pipes provided or repaired	16
Fresh air inlets repaired	1

Waterclosets:-

W.Cs where walls repaired	1
New basins fixed	17
W.Cs where connections repaired	1
Cisterns repaired or renewed	13
W.Cs provided with a sufficient supply of water	10
New flush pipes fixed	12
Doors repaired or renewed	12
W.C. seats repaired or replaced	3
W.Cs ventilated	12
W.Cs decorated	12
W.Cs where lighting improved	12

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) Water.

With the exception of a few outlying houses, which have satisfactory private sources, Hitchin obtains its water from piped supplies controlled by the Lee Valley Water Company.

Water is obtained from three wells (1) Temple End, Charlton, (2) Oughton Head and (3) Offley Bottom. The latter two are situated in the rural district just outside the urban boundary. An adequate supply was maintained from the above sources and no restrictions were necessary during the year. The water is satisfactory in quality. 206 bacteriological and 13 chemical samples of the water supplied in the district were taken during the year and examined at the Company's own laboratory. All the samples were found to be satisfactory. The water from the wells is hard and therefore no trouble is experienced due to plumbo-solvency.

The number of dwelling houses supplied with water from public mains direct into the house is 8,355 serving approximately 25,225 persons, whilst the number of dwelling houses supplied with water from public mains by means of stand-pipes is 17 serving approximately 51 persons. In the case of 20 houses the water supply is provided in an outbuilding.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

Extensions to the soil and stormwater sewers were carried out during the year on the Westmill Estate.

2. Rivers and Streams.

No action required.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

With the exception of a few outlying premises, the whole of the district is provided with waterclosets, which excluding a few waterclosets discharging into cess-pools, are connected to the Council's sewers.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA. Continued:-

3. (ii) Public Cleansing - Refuse Collection.

At the end of the year there were approximately 8,477 premises on the paper sack system. Included in this number are 375 premises using polythene sacks.

All the foregoing premises are collected by eleven workmen, using three open lorries, i.e. two teams of four and one of three men. Eventually the smaller team will be made up into a third team of four men and the three teams, comprising twelve men, should be capable of collecting 9,600 premises from a population of approximately 30,000 persons.

In July, 1965, owing to the increasing number of requests for special collections of large items of household rubbish, it became necessary to employ one old Dennis side loading refuse vehicle full time on this work. This old machine is operated by one loader driver, and had previously been held as a spare in case of an emergency.

During 1965 1,112 special collections of rubbish were made.

(iii) Public Health Inspection of the Area.

See pages 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Sixty-three premises were inspected during the year and 162 visits were made for that purpose.

The following works were carried out after informal action:-

Cleanliness improved	1
Overcrowding remedied	2
Thermometers provided	20
Means of heating provided or improved	1
Means of lighting provided or improved	10
Floors and steps improved	2
Seating provided or improved	1
First aid boxes provided	10
Washing facilities improved	3
Hot and cold water provided	1
Sanitary conveniences improved	8
Abstract of Act provided	20

(v) Caravans.

At 31st December, 1965, 8 licences had been granted authorising the use of land as sites for caravans. The number of caravans covered by the licences is 114.

Parking of caravans by gipsies and travellers has continued to present difficulties during the year. This question of illegal standing of caravans together with the litter left behind when the occupants are eventually removed is now recognised as a national problem. One or two local authorities have attempted to solve the matter by providing small caravan sites on which these particular individuals can station their caravans more or less on a permanent basis.

(vi) Clean Air.

Observations of industrial and other chimneys were made during the year, together with visits to the boiler plants concerned when contraventions occurred.

Good liaison continued with the Surveyor regarding the height of proposed chimneys for new installations. Certain plans are passed to this department for observations and, if necessary, discussions take place with architects for amendments so that the proposed chimney complies with the memorandum on chimney heights issued by the Ministry. This procedure, however, often fails in the cases of County Council and Crown property projects. Usually only outline plans are submitted as a courtesy, and consequently chimneys have been erected which fall short of the height recommended by the memorandum. Representations have been made in these cases to the appropriate authorities but have not met with any success and a chimney height that would be imposed on a private firm or individual is not achieved.

(vii) Swimming Baths.

There are three swimming baths in the district, (a) a public open-air swimming bath maintained by the Council, comprising a main and children's pool, (b) a private open/air swimming bath at the Girls' Grammar School and (c) a parent/teacher association pool at Purwell Primary School.

112 samples of water in the two pools at the Council's baths were taken, 56 being submitted to a bacteriological examination and 56 to a residual chlorine test. All of the samples were reported upon as satisfactory.

The two pools at the public baths are filled from a main water supply. The water is continuously circulated and purified by pressure sand filtration and chlorination. The filtration plant has a turnover period of about four hours.

The County Health Department took samples of the water in the Girls' Grammar School bath and Purwell Primary School pool during the year.

(viii) Inspection of Common Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses registered in Hitchin.

SECTION D

HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

- | | | |
|--------|--|-----|
| 1. (a) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). | 87 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 468 |
| 2. (a) | Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925. | 7 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 9 |
| 3. | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | 7 |
| 4. | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | 142 |

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.

25

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

- (A) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957:
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. -

continued:-

(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a)	By Owners	-
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	-
(B)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	3
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a)	By Owners	-
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners.	-
(C)	Proceedings under Sections 16, 17, 23 and Part 3 of the Housing Act, 1957:	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	1
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were revoked.	-
(3)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	16
(4)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings to make fit were accepted from owners etc.	2
(5)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings not to use for human habitation until made fit were accepted from owners, etc.	1
(6)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders.	-

continued:-

(D) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17, 18 and 28 of the Housing Act, 1957:

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| (1) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. | - |
| (2) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit. | - |
| (3) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made. | - |
| (4) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the house having been rendered fit. | - |
| (5) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were revoked and Demolition Orders made. | - |
| (6) | Number of dwelling houses owned by Local Authority certified as unfit by the Medical Officer of Health. | - |

4. OVERCROWDING.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|--|----|
| (a) | (1) | Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. | 1 |
| | (2) | Number of families dwelling therein. | 2 |
| | (3) | Number of persons dwelling therein. | 10 |
| (b) | (1) | Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year. | 1 |
| (c) | (1) | Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. | 1 |
| | (2) | Number of persons concerned in such cases | 12 |
| (d) | | Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding: | - |
| | (1) | Number of cases. | - |
| | (2) | Number of families concerned. | - |
| | (3) | Number of persons. | - |

5. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(1) Number of discretionary improvement grants made.	-
(2) Number in (1) above made to owner/occupiers.	-
(3) Number of houses where discretionary improvement grant works completed.	3
(4) Number of standard improvement grants made.	33
(5) Number in (4) above made to owner/occupiers.	24
(6) Number of houses where standard improvement grant works completed.	55

6. IMPROVEMENT AREAS

Early in the year the first improvement area was surveyed and inspected. This area bounded by Bearton Road, Whitehurst Avenue, Wilton Road and Old Hale Way was declared Improvement Area No.1 in April, 1965. It consisted of 281 houses comprising 200 owner/occupied and 81 tenanted. 111 of the houses were without one or more of the standard amenities.

A survey of a second area had almost been completed by the end of 1965. This area bounded by Bearton Road, Ickleford Road, Fishponds Road and Bedford Road comprised approximately 400 houses.

The following action had been taken at the end of the year in respect of area No.1:-

Number of preliminary notices served.	30
Number of immediate notices served.	4
Number of suspended notices served.	3

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

In accordance with the Milk and Dairies Regulations three premises are registered as dairies. One of the dairies carries out the pasteurising and bottling of milk using the H.T.S.T. method of pasteurisation. The two remaining dairies are used as milk stores. There are also four distributors of milk registered under the Regulations. Inspections of the foregoing dairies were made during the year.

During the year 82 samples of milk were taken and submitted to bacteriological examinations with the following results, the majority being bottled milk taken in course of delivery to the consumer.

continued:-

Milk Supply (cont'd.)

No. of Samples	Class of Milk.	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test		Percentage Satisfactory.
		Satisfied.	Failed.	Satisfied.	Failed.	
58	Pasteurised.	56	2	58	-	96.6%
		Turbidity Test				
		Satisfied.	Failed.			
24	Sterilised.	24	-			100%

(b) Meat and Foods.

The only premises licensed by the Council for use as a slaughter-house is the Hitchin Bacon Factory Ltd., Nightingale Road, Hitchin, where extensive slaughtering of pigs is carried out, together with a number of sheep. 49,349 pigs and 480 sheep were killed and inspected during the year. The Council make a charge to the factory of 5d. per pig and 6d. per sheep slaughtered and inspected.

The following table gives details of the number of animals killed, inspected and found to be diseased, unsound or unfit for food. The diseased or unsound meat is voluntarily surrendered and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	-	-	-	480	49,349	-
Number inspected	-	-	-	480	49,349	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u> Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	1	37	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	-	-	-	4.2	13.2	-
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u> Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	271	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	.55	-
<u>Cysticercosis.</u> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-

The following table gives summarised information relating to the carcasses, offal, etc., condemned at the Hitchin Bacon Factory Ltd:

	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>lb.</u>
37 pig carcasses		4,945
163 back legs		1,435
177 fore legs		858
572 hocks		881
832 heads		9,883
260 stomachs		2,080
5,267 lungs		15,801
2,491 livers		9,964
965 hearts		480
592 kidneys		149
300 flares		900
74 fillets		55
trimmings		1,160

	<u>Sheep</u>	
1 sheep carcass		21
2 lungs		1
16 livers		40
1 shoulder		3
		<hr/> 48,656 <hr/>

TOTAL 21 tons. 14 cwts. 1 qr. 20 lb.

Numerous visits were made to butchers' shops, food shops and other food preparing premises where the following quantities of foodstuffs were found to be unsound, unfit for food, and were voluntarily surrendered by the owners and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption.

<u>Meat from Butchers' Shops</u>	<u>lb.</u>
Beef	142
Decomposition	
<u>General</u>	
Miscellaneous tinned and packed foods	1,114
Miscellaneous tinned meats	205
Fish	68
TOTAL	13 cwts. 2 qrs. 17 lb.

Grand total of foodstuffs condemned. (All classes)

<u>Tons.</u>	<u>cwts.</u>	<u>qrs.</u>	<u>lb.</u>
22	8	-	9

ICE CREAM

The number of premises registered under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the storage and sale of ice cream is 89.

Frequent visits were made to the foregoing premises to enforce the provisions of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1959, and for the purpose of sampling. Regarding sampling 51 samples of ice cream and 10 of "soft" ice cream were taken.

Ice Cream

Grade I	44 Satisfactory.
Grade II	4 do.
Grade III	3 Unsatisfactory.

"Soft" Ice Cream

Grade I	10 Satisfactory.
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FOOD HYGIENE

1. There are 265 food premises in the area consisting of 53 grocers, 28 confectioners (sweets), 11 confectioners (cakes etc.), 19 greengrocers, 6 fish friers, 7 fishmongers, 1 poultryer, 19 butchers, 48 restaurant kitchens (including industrial and school canteens), 7 food factories, 8 bakehouses, 56 licensed premises and 2 warehouses, the latter being used for the storage of food only.
2. The following premises are registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955; 16 butchers (for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pickled, pressed or preserved food) 1 butcher (for the pickling of meat), 2 fishmongers (for the preservation of fish), 4 food factories (for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pickled, pressed or preserved food) 3 grocers (for the cooking of ham) 1 grocer and 1 fishmonger (for the roasting of chickens). Regarding ice cream 89 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream; 34 grocers, 6 greengrocers, 24 confectioners (sweets) and 26 general premises. One of the premises is licensed for the storage of ice cream only.

continued.....

FOOD HYGIENE (cont'd.)

3. Regarding inspection of food premises see (5) below.
4. Condemned food is disposed of at the premises of the Hitchin Bacon Factory Ltd., where it is processed in a digester plant.
5. The following improvements were carried out during the year to premises used for preparation, sale, etc. of food:-

Washing Facilities.

Number of new sinks provided	1
Number of new washbasins provided	6
Number of double sink units provided	2
Number of fitments provided with running hot and cold water	4

Structural Work.

Number of rooms where walls repaired or improved	12
Number of rooms where floors repaired or renewed	3
Number of rooms where walls decorated	7
Number of rooms where ceilings repaired or renewed	7
Number of rooms where ceilings decorated	11
Number of rooms where woodwork decorated	2
Number of rooms where ventilation improved	1
Number of premises where intervening ventilated space provided	7

Equipment.

Number of premises where equipment renovated	3
Number of premises where new counter tops installed	4
Number of premises where refrig: display cabinets provided	4
Number of premises where new dustbins provided	4
Number of premises where food storage improved	3

Hygiene.

Number of premises where suitable soap and towels provided	3
Number of premises where first aid box provided	4

Kitchen Utensils - Bacteriological Swabs.

During 1965, 84 visits were made to food preparing premises and 280 swabs of kitchen utensils were taken for bacteriological examination.

Each swab is cultivated for two different times and temperatures and bacterial counts made. No official standard is laid down but a utensil is regarded as satisfactory if the average of both counts is not more than 100 organisms per utensil and faecal coliform is absent. 165 samples passed the unofficial standard and 115 failed.

Utensil cleansing techniques are constantly under supervision.

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FACTORIES ACT, 1961

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1965

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

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PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	11	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	167	57	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	4			
TOTAL	182	59	2	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	2	2	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):-					
(a) Insufficient	5	5	1	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	14	14	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	2	2	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:-	23	23	1	2	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK (SECTIONS 133 and 134)

Nature of Work.	Section 133			Section 134		
	Number of outworkers in August list re- quired by Section 133(1)(e)	Number of cases of default in sending list to the Council.	Number of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists.	Number of instances of work in unwhole- some premises.	Notices served.	Prose- cutions.
Clothing manufacture	27	-	-	-	-	-

